

## [Mrs. Mollie Castor]

LM D [???

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER George Hartman ADDRESS 2438 W., Lincoln

DATE November 14, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

1. Name and address of informant Mrs. Mollie Castor
2. Date and time of interview Nov. 14, 1938 - 2 to 5
3. Place of interview 14th and K streets
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant Edward [Grantham?] - 851 North 26th
5. Name and address of person, if any accompanying you  
Edward [Grantham?] 851 North 26th
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Apartment, nicely furnished. [C15???

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER George [Grantham?] ADDRESS 2438 W., Lincoln

DATE November 14, 1938 SUBJECT Folklore

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NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT Mrs. Mollie Castor, 14th and K Sts.

1. Ancestry English
2. Place and date of birth Iowa, eastern part, 1857
3. Family Lives alone
4. Places lived in, with dates Iowa, 1857-1961 - Nebr. 1861-1938
5. Education, with dates Grade school
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates with dates Housewife, mother.
7. Special skills and interests None outstanding.
8. Community and religious activities Methodist
9. Description of informant Small, White-haired, deaf.
10. Other points gained in interview None

### FORM C Text of Interview (Edited)

My father brought us to Nebraska in a spring wagon in 1861. We located in the town that was then Swan City.

My father built a log house for our home. It had a dirt floor. The fireplace was built out of stone. He had a hard job hunting the material for the house. The shingles for the roof were homemade. They would saw off log 18 inches long then they would split them and plane one side smooth. The windows were of the old fashioned eight by ten small glass. A little shed was usually built on to the house for the wood supply. There was no coal in those

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days in fact it was unknown to us. Naturally much wood was burned. This home was very warm in winter and cool in summer.

Once, because of an Indian scare everybody went to Beatrice. Beatrice was not much of a town in those days however it was a place to go to. A huge circle of wagons was made into a fort.

However nothing came of this scare and the Indians didn't show up. The horses were put inside of the circle so that the Indians would not steal them. The Indians would steal the settler's horses anytime they could.

My brother worked for an overland freight company. Mules and ox were used to pull their wagons. They went in groups in order to protect themselves from the Indians. Thirty of forty men would constitute the train. There would be two men to the wagon. Some of the wagons would have six or eight mules or oxen. As there were no bridges they had to ford the streams. Only trails for roads.

The man who drove the wagons in the freights had a hard time keeping their bodies clean and they were usually infested with lice. One way of telling an Indian scalp from a white man's scalp was the presence of lice on the Indian scalp.

People usually [came?] to the west because they were not wealthy and they wanted a home and a chance to make their fortune.

Hordes of civil war soldiers came to Nebraska after the war to settle down. These men had been out in the army for several years and did not have anything after the war so a free homestead helped them get a fresh start.

A remedy for fever was to take burdock leaves and they were bound to one's feet.

My father, William Remington, was the first sheriff of Saline county.

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Men used to be called by what locality they came from. If you lived in Nebraska and went to Kansas the people called you "Nebraska."

There was no street signs at all in those days. No numbers on the houses. Everybody sent to [the?] postoffice to get their mail and all one had to do was to ask somebody where so and so lived and you would find out right away.

One day when I was a small girl I was standing in front of our house and I saw a man coming. I thought he was an Indian and I was frightened and began to cry for my mother. My mother came and told me the man was no Indian and she said: "If you don't behave I'll make you [ore?] afraid of me than an Indian."

One time a man we knew left his house unlocked leaving it for a few minutes. When he got back he found that two Indians had gotten into his house and were stealing food. The man tiptoed into the house and peeked into the pantry. The Indians had taken pillow slips and were filling them 3 with flour and other foods. The Indians had their backs turned to the door and the man had a horsewhip in his hand. He let loose of a terrible blow striking the Indians an their raw flesh. The Indians let out a terrible roar of pain and dashed out of the house where a dog grabbed one of them and wouldn't let go until their master told him to. The two Indians went back to their camp and [?] the man wasn't bothered any more.